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Washington, D.C. 20520

10 1994

Roger P. Winter
Director
U.S. Committee for Refugees
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 701
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Winter:

Thank you for your letter of May 3 urging our consideration of 14 policy options to respond to the on-going tragedy in Rwanda. The United States Government shares your concerns and is working very closely with the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, and regional leaders to alleviate the suffering in Rwanda.

U.S. objectives for Rwanda are:

- o to stop the killings and protect innocent civilians,
- o to bring belligerent parties to a cease fire,
- o to urge a resumption of negotiations,
- o to speed delivery of humanitarian assistance,
- o to prevent the conflict from spreading and to investigate allegations of atrocities.

In meeting these objectives, we voted in favor of the resolution passed at the Special Session of the UN Human Rights Commission which appointed a Special Rapporteur to investigate the reports of atrocities in Rwanda. We are also urging rapid deployment of an expanded UN force in Rwanda to provide protection for civilians still trapped in refuges in the capital and in the South.

Additionally, we have spoken with both the RPF and Rwandan government at the highest levels to ensure their cooperation with the evacuation of Rwandans trapped in enclaves in Kigali. These efforts appear to be bearing some fruit with the evacuation of some 2,000 Rwandans from the Mille Collines hotel and Amahoro stadium reported over the weekend.

Addressing the issue of Temporary Protective Status for Rwandans, I agree that this is an important policy step that the US government can take on behalf of Rwandans currently here in the U.S. I understand that U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno will be taking action on this soon.

970241 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1879 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
138 DATE/CASE ID: 14 OCT 2003 200203739

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In the realm of humanitarian assistance, we are and will continue to provide the logistical and financial support to ongoing humanitarian relief operations in the region. In this regard, the Department of Defense has flown 37 missions and is planning 41 more in the next week, airlifting relief supplies to the refugee and displaced persons camps bordering Rwanda. We are also planning to provide the airlift and material support mentioned in your letter to the expanded UN force authorized in Security Council resolution 918.

To assist financially in the humanitarian relief effort for the almost one million Rwandan displaced persons and refugees, the US government has made 15 million dollars available to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Program (WFP) and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) to support their Rwandan assistance programs. Other US assistance is being provided by USAID's office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Food for Peace (FPF), and the US Department for Agriculture. A total of \$54 million in aid to Rwanda has already been provided.

The US Government will continue to do all that it can in concert with the international community to stop the killing in Rwanda and bring an end to the fighting. Thank you for sharing your concerns with us.

Sincerely yours,

Arlene Render (jgl)

Arlene Render
Director,
Office of
Central African Affairs

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Drafted:AF/C:KAiston
SECC: 4153

Clearances:AF/C:RFendrick
DRL:RPowers 6/12,
BB:BThompson 12/12.

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